



Martin Luther King III met Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi and Consul General Beth A. Payne in Kolkata.

AMERICAN CENTER BULLETIN

KOLKATA APRIL 2009



Events at a Glance

April 4-6:

Teachers' workshop and outreach in Shillong, Meghalaya by USIEF, Kolkata.

April 5-6:

USIEF Regional Officer to visit local schools and colleges for presentation on U.S. higher education.

April 6:

"We Care": Festival of award-winning films that focus on disability.

April 9:

Lecture on "Dementia" as part of the series of "Popular Health Lectures."

April 11-12:

Education Fair in Ranchi, Jharkhand, by USIEF, Kolkata.

April 17

Earth Day Programs.

April 18

Nature excursion for less-advantaged children to a local snake farm.

April 22

Fourth Annual Green Biz Quiz.

Holidays :

April 10:

Good Friday

April 15:

Bengali New Year



EARTH DAY: A PLEDGE TO SAVE THE EARTH

Earth Day, April 22, is the annual U.S. celebration of the environment and a time for Americans to assess the work still needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet. Earth Day has no central organizing force behind it, though several nongovernmental organizations work to keep track of the thousands of local events in schools and parks that mark the day. Although it began in the U.S., the event is now widely celebrated around the world. It affirms that environmental awareness is a growing part of our collective consciousness and that the idea of protecting the environment -- once the province of a few conservationists -- has moved from the extreme to the mainstream of American, and global, thought.



ORIGIN OF EARTH DAY

Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. senator from Wisconsin and a longtime conservationist, began promoting Earth Day to state governors, mayors of big cities, editors of college newspapers and, importantly, to Scholastic Magazine, which is circulated in U.S. elementary and secondary schools. In September 1969, Nelson formally announced that there would be a "national environmental teach-in" sometime during the spring of 1970. The press carried the story nationwide and Nelson's effort resulted in an overwhelming public response. The nationwide demonstration of concern for the environment shook the political arena. Groundbreaking federal legislation followed the success of the first Earth Day. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was established in 1970, followed by the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act of 1972, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Among the many far-reaching provisions of these bills was the requirement that automobiles use unleaded gasoline, achieve a minimum number of miles-per-gallon of gasoline, and be equipped with catalytic converters to reduce the amount of toxic fumes released by automobile exhaust.



Earth Day celebrates its 39th anniversary in 2009. What began in 1970 as a protest movement has evolved into a global celebration of the environment and commitment to its protection. The history of Earth Day mirrors the growth of environmental awareness over the last three decades, and the legacy of Earth Day is the certain knowledge that the environment is a universal concern. Most organizations choose their own theme for Earth Day, so there may be several different themes across the country. However, the National Environmental Education Foundation has chosen the theme "Be Water Wise!" for Earth Day 2009.

For more information on U.S. initiatives related to Earth Day, as well as a broad ranges of subjects related to American life and culture, visit www.america.gov.

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Web site: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov>
Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm;
The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

"WE CARE"

April 6: Kolkata

This is a festival of award-winning films that focus on disability. Ritika Sahni, curator of the festival, social activist, and well-known singer will introduce the films and be available for interactions. There will be special screenings during the day for students in collaboration with the NGO Trinayani Trust at the American Center. In the evening, in collaboration with Rotary Sadan, programs will be held for the general public at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Contact: 3984-6327 or SinghKX@state.gov

United States - India Educational Foundation (USIEF) Organizes Teachers' Workshop**April 4-6: Shillong, Meghalaya**

United States - India Educational Foundation (USIEF), Kolkata, is organizing a workshop for school teachers at the Seven Sets School, Shillong. The workshop will be conducted by Fulbright alumni who have recently returned from the United States after attending a six-week "Teaching Excellence and Achievement" program.

Education Fair**April 11-12: Ranchi, Jharkhand**

USIEF will attend the 18th Career Fair organized by Affairs in Ranchi April 11-12 at the Hotel Capitol Hill to disseminate information on "Higher Education in the USA" and "Fulbright-Nehru Fellowships."

EARTH DAY

April 17: Kolkata

To commemorate Earth Day, various programs will be held. Finals of the WWF co-sponsored essay competition on the topic "E-Waste" will be held for the students. Similar programs on the same topic will be held for the corporate sector which will include discussions and a DVC. Programs will be held at the American Center. **Contact: 3984-6327 or SinghKX@state.gov**

April 18: Kolkata

The Public Affairs Office will cosponsor a nature excursion campaign for less-advantaged children to a local snake farm. The program is cosponsored by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Contact: 3984-6327 or SinghKX@state.gov

GREEN BIZ QUIZ

April 22: Kolkata

The Fourth Annual Green Biz Quiz will be held at the Oberoi Grand, Kolkata at 2:30 p.m. The program is being cosponsored by the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Knowledge Partners are PriceWaterHouseCoopers and J.D. Birla Management Institution.

Contact: 3984-6327 or SinghKX@state.gov

All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.

Film Show
SOME LIKE IT HOT
 (1959, 2 hrs.)

At 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, Kolkata, American Center

Listed as one of the greatest American Comedy films of all time, *Some Like It Hot* is directed by Billy Wilder and stars Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon. It's a black and white film filled with non-stop action and comedy.

The exceptional film was the all-time highest-grossing comedy up to its time, one of the most successful films of 1959, and Wilder's funniest comedy in his career. Two down-on-their-luck, unemployed jazz musicians dress up as women in order to get two weeks of work in an all-women's dance band bound for Florida, after witnessing a gang-land massacre in Prohibition-Era Chicago and being pursued by the mob. Only a few other cross-dressing comedies have come close to approximating the film's daring hilarity.



The film won the Academy award for Best Costume Design.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 12-18, 2009

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the United States each April. It celebrates the contributions of libraries and librarians in the United States. The theme for National Library Week 2009 is "Worlds connect @ your library."

To commemorate the event, the American Library is organizing a seminar on **Tuesday, April 14**, on the topic "Reversing the Digital Divide: Reaching Out to the Information Have-nots."

Contact: 3984-6399 or mukhotymx@state.gov

The Month In Photos



APAO Berkana commemorated World Meteorological Day at Berhampur University in Orissa on March 23.

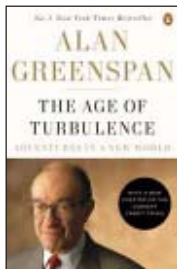


For Women's Month, Consul General Beth Payne inaugurated a film festival to bring awareness about human trafficking.



Consul General Beth Payne spoke at the All-India Milad Un Nabi Conference held in Kolkata.

ADDITIONS TO OUR BOOK COLLECTION

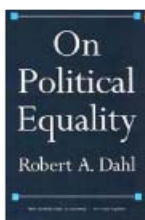
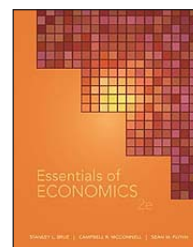


THE AGE OF TURBULENCE: ADVENTURES IN A NEW WORLD by Alan Greenspan.
Penguin Press, 2007. 531pp.

The Age of Turbulence is Alan Greenspan's incomparable reckoning with the contemporary financial world, channeled through his own experiences working in the command room of the global economy longer and with greater effect than any other single living figure. The distillation of a life's worth of wisdom and insight into an elegant expression of a coherent worldview, *The Age of Turbulence* will stand as Alan Greenspan's personal and intellectual legacy.

ESSENTIALS OF ECONOMICS by Stanley L. Brue & Campbell R. McConnell. Mcgraw-Hill, 2007. 477 pp.

Building on the tremendous success of their best-selling *Principles of Economics* text, Brue, McConnell, and Flynn have revised their one-semester text to provide a fresh alternative. This 18-chapter textbook utilizes clear and careful language along with pedagogy and topic discussion suited to the needs of one-semester course. The book is a patient, substantive treatment of micro- and macro-economics for a one-semester course with many up-to-date, motivating examples.

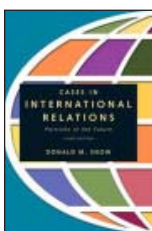
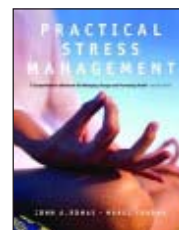


ON POLITICAL EQUALITY by Robert A. Dahl. Yale University Pr., 2006. 142 pp.

Robert A. Dahl, one of the world's most influential and respected political scientists, has spent a lifetime exploring the institutions and practices of democracy in such landmark books as *Who Governs?*, *On Democracy*, and *How Democratic Is the American Constitution?* Here, Dahl looks at the fundamental issue of equality and how and why governments have fallen short of their democratic ideals.

PRACTICAL STRESS MANAGEMENT: A COMPREHENSIVE WORKBOOK FOR MANAGING CHANGE AND PROMOTING HEALTH by John A. Romas & Manoj Sharma. Pearson Education, 2007. 270 pp.

Practical Stress Management is a focused, personal, worksheet-based text that combines theory and principles with hands-on exercises to help readers manage the negative impact of stress in their lives. The action oriented approach of this workbook enables to recognize and prevent stress through self-reflection and behavior-change techniques.



CASES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: PORTRAITS OF THE FUTURE by Donald M. Snow. Pearson, 2008. 312 pp.

Cases in International Relations challenges students to use international relations theory to explore the most current and pressing issues facing the world. Designed to complement the main themes of any introductory course, this text presents 16 case studies that focus on the most important and enduring issues facing the international system.

Published under the direction of Douglas G. Kelly, Director, American Center of the U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata.

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